



**90th Convocation of the
BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY
March 15, 2008**

**Conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Letters, *Honoris Causa*
on
SATISH GUJRAL**

CITATION

Satish Gujral born in 1925 at Jhelum of pre-partition Punjab is one of the leading painter-muralist-sculptor-architect of India. He studied painting at Mayo School of Art, Lahore (1939-1944), Sir J. J. School of Art, Mumbai (1944-47) and Palacio Nacional de Bellas Arts, Mexico (1952 and 1954). He specialized in mural techniques under the guidance of Diego Rivera and David Alfaro Siqueiros. He has won the National Award for Painting and Sculpture, thrice. One of the founders of Modern School of Indian Painting, he was awarded "*Order of the Crown*" by the Belgium Government for his outstanding contribution in contemporary Indian architectural design. The building of Belgium Embassy at New Delhi, one of his masterpieces, has been aptly selected by the International forum of Architects as one of the "*One Thousand Best-built Edifices in the Twentieth Century*". Several books and numerous articles have been written on his path-breaking contribution in the field and couple of films have been produced.

Sri Gujral was awarded with *Padma Vibhushan* in 1998. His major retrospectives were mounted at Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi in 1986 and at National Gallery of Modern Art, in 2005. His works were exhibited in all world capitals and are housed in major museums and private collections around the world. His autobiography, "*A Brush with Life*", is a significant document of contemporary artistic ethos. To quote Gujral: "*Painting, sculpture and architecture are manifestations of a single aesthetic. They are products of a total environment – a social and cultural system with parallels in literature, music and other arts...*". In him, we find the confluence of more than one creative approach, a holistic vision shaping the diverse many into a significant image, eternally present.

By conferring *Honoris Causa* degree of Doctor of Letters of Banaras Hindu University on Sri Satish Gujral, the University is recognizing the contribution of an outstanding painter for his scholarly achievements.

**Panjab Singh
Vice-Chancellor**